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To: Lester Snow

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California is reaching limits in regards to water resources and will not be able to sustain the competing interests of agribusiness, urban and suburban users without severe (and perhaps irreversible) ecological damage. The vision I have for the future is one of intense conservation efforts ~~rewarded~~ rewarding or punishing water users by economic incentives and tight water regulation. I support free flowing rivers and do not want to see dams built or expanded. I want to see excessive waste stopped and water saving technologies fully implemented before more talk of water diversions, dams, etc.

It's Time to completely overhaul California water policy. The old policy on water rights known as "use it or lose it" is clearly counterproductive. Agribusiness wastes huge amounts of water in both crop selection (i.e. water intensive crops) and its irrigation techniques. Petrochemical farming is responsible for much of the pollution of our rivers, groundwater and estuaries; and the pollution is more concentrated because of the huge amount of water that is used and removed from the ecosystem. I'm tired of seeing tax payer dollars go to subsidize wasteful and polluting water users. It's time for an agribusiness wake up call and I support any of the following incentives: revocation of water rights, pollution taxes, more expensive water, fines for non-compliance, and indictments for gross polluters. Stop pollution at the source!

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I want to see increased fresh water flows to restore rivers, bays, and wildlife habitat. This can be accomplished by efficient water use and conservation. Ground water storage and management needs to be implemented. We need to take better care of our bays and rivers by protecting the lands around them. Pollution prevention is key.

More dams is not the answer. CALFED's draft plan must be revised and a commitment made to not build any new or expanded dams, reservoirs, or canals during Stage 1 (the first 7 years) and until efficient water use and conservation measures are in place and operational. No more tax subsidies for those losers in agribusiness. Let them pay the true costs of their water.

Please make it a priority to restore salmon runs and the "Pacific Flyway" migratory bird habitat. It's time to focus on ecology so we have something left for the future. Please do all that you can to help preserve our beautiful state.

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